

“As for Me and My house”

Choose this day who you will serve

Joshua 24:14-15

Shadrach Means

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Joshua 24:14-15 ¹⁴ “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of ⁴the River and in Egypt. **Serve the LORD!** ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”

The Example of Jesus

- **Matthew 20:28** “...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”

Warren Wiersbe gives an excellent definition of ministry.

“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.”

Serve Him because there is a need

Acts 6:1-4 “Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- *Hellenists* – (Grecian Culture) Greek speaking Jews of the dispersion. They had returned to Israel to live because Jerusalem was the Holy City.
 - *They felt the Greek speaking Jewish widows were being neglected by the Hebrew speaking Jews.*
 - **Acts 4:34-35** ³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the

proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need."

- The Apostles apparently were able to meet the needs, but as the ministry grew, more people were added to ministry.
- The 'Twelve' mentioned in verse 2 are the 12 Apostles.
- They were no longer able to meet the needs of the people as they had in the past.
 - More ministry requires more ministers.
 - Not just bodies, but people with certain qualities.

- *The Job description*

- **Must have a "good reputation"** (Character)
 - **Acts 10:22** "And they said, "Cornelius *the* centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a *good reputation* among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."
 - **1 Timothy 3:7** "Moreover he must have a *good testimony* among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."
 - *Our Example* –
 - **Philippians 2:5-9** ⁴⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross."
- **Must be full of the Holy Spirit**
 - "*Fullness of the Spirit is not abnormal, but normal Christian life.*" G. Campbell Morgan
 - **Acts 11:22-24** ²² Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, *full of the Holy Spirit* and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord."
- **Must be full of wisdom**
 - **James 1:5-7** ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

- **The purpose of the new ministry.**
 - To minister to the needs of the saints.
 - So that...
 - The disciples could “give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Serve Him because He wants to use you

Acts 6:5-6 ⁴⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose **Stephen**, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and **Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas**, and **Nicolas**, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.”

- It’s interesting to note that the seven men they found all had Greek names.
 - Most likely because the Greek speaking Jewish widows were being neglected.
- *Stephen*
 - *“Stephen was one of these men. The emphasis in Stephen’s life is on fullness: he was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3, 10), full of faith (Acts 6:5), and full of power (Acts 6:8). In Scripture, to be “full of” means “to be controlled by.” This man was controlled by the Spirit, faith, wisdom, and power. He was a God-controlled man yielded to the Holy Spirit, a man who sought to lead people to Christ.”* (Warren Wiersbe)
 - *Full of Faith*
 - He was a man controlled by the Holy Spirit and a man controlled by faith.
 - He had faith in Christ, faith in God’s word, and faith in what Christ did for him on the cross.
 - That faith moved him to boldness and to being faithful.
 - Stephen didn’t limit his ministry to serving tables, or ministering to the needs of the saints.
 - *The First Martyr of the church* (Acts 7:54)
- *Philip*
 - **Acts 8:5-8** ⁴⁵ Then **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.”
 - **Acts 8:26-40** ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went. And behold, a man of

Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; *And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*” ³³ *In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation?* For His life is taken from the earth.” ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?*” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.”

- *Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas*
 - Nothing else is written about these men
- *They started and so should we, where God opens the door.*

God has a place for you!

- **1 Corinthians 12:12** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:18** “...now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:27-28** ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. ²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.**”
- **Romans 12:4-8** ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if **prophecy**, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or **ministry**, *let us use it* in our ministering;

he who **teaches**, in teaching; ⁸ he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.”

- **Ephesians 4:11-16** ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
- Just remember that it’s the Lord that does it by His Spirit.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:10** “But by the grace of God I am what I am.”

Serve Him because of what He will do

Acts 6:7 “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

- *He will do the adding...*
 - **Acts 2:47** “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
- *He will do the multiplying...*
 - *The disciples multiplied GREATLY* – Greatly means ‘very, very much’

Where do I start

- *In the home.*
 - Joshua determined and stated...
 - **Joshua 24:15** “*As for me and my house...*”
 - Ministry begins in the home with our families! Men, wash your wives and children in the word.
 - Set the example and teach your children the importance of serving others!
- *Outside the home*
 - Pray
 - What is God putting on your heart?
 - If this is your home church and you attend in person, visit our website.
 - “*How do I get involved*” forms online
 - What if I watch online?
 - You can serve your neighbors, family, friends, co-workers.

- What if I'm too old?
 - Corrie Ten Boom had an amazing life of ministry

Be Content

Whatever God has called you to do or wherever He has called you to be is the highest calling for you!

- Don't spend time daydreaming about what it would be like to be someone else, JUST BE YOU!
 - **Philippians 4:11** "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content..."
 - If God has called you to be a janitor, be content.
 - Be content to be wherever God has you!

Quote:

"During World War II, England needed to increase its production of coal. Winston Churchill called together labor leaders to enlist their support. At the end of his presentation, he asked them to picture in their minds a parade which he knew would be held in Piccadilly Circus after the war.

First, he said, would come the sailors who had kept the vital sea lanes open. Then would come the soldiers who had come home from Dunkirk and then gone on to defeat Rommel in Africa. Then would come the pilots who had driven the Luftwaffe from the sky.

Last of all, he said, would come a long line of sweat-stained, soot-streaked men in miner's caps. Someone would cry from the crowd, 'And where were you during the critical days of our struggle?' And from ten thousand throats would come the answer, 'We were deep in the earth with our faces to the coal.'

Not all the jobs in a church are prominent and glamorous. But it is often the people with their "faces to the coal" who help the church accomplish its mission."

Be Faithful

1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."

Quote:

“During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. Their leader was shouting instructions but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, “Sir, I am a corporal!” The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, “Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again.” It was none other than George Washington.”

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John 13:12-17 ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**”